

# Newsletter of the Molong Historical Society Inc.



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WINTER 2023

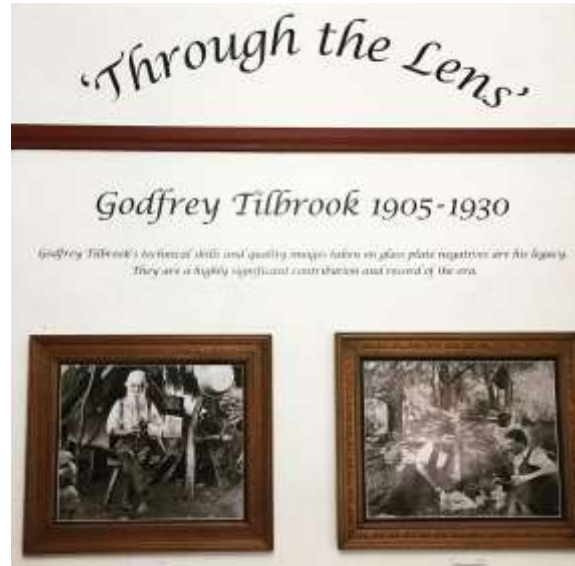
## Points of Interest:

Museum, located at 20 Riddell Street,  
(Cnr Gidley St) Molong  
PO BOX 119 Molong  
OPEN Thursdays and Sundays  
10 am to 2pm

Or by appointment

Phone Contact 0400425015 or 0491663903  
(message only)

contact email—[molonghs@gmail.com](mailto:molonghs@gmail.com) or [susanmilne55@gmail.com](mailto:susanmilne55@gmail.com)



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022/23

President—	Bob Sullivan	(0427696256)
Vice President—	Elizabeth Griffin	(0437868595)
Secretary—	Lyndall Scott	(0419993660)
Treasurer—	Susan Grinpuke	
Committee	Sue Milne	(0400425015)
	<a href="mailto:susanmilne55@gmail.com">susanmilne55@gmail.com</a>	
	Lynne Robertson	
	Julie Lawrie	
	Michael Cass	
	John Lawrie	
Historian—	Catherine Mackenzie	

PATRONS            Jean Bennett,  
                          Marie and John Hammond.



2023  
ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING

Will be held on  
Saturday 12th August  
At 2pm

**ANNUAL FEES**  
due June 30th each year.  
They are \$20 each  
(\$35 family).

Fees can be paid by direct debit,  
mail or in person

Bank Details  
BSB 062573 28007189

Fees have remained the same for 5  
years.

# CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH MUSEUM DAYS AND OTHER TASKS

The Historical Society has been able to reopen the Museum to the public following COVID and veranda renovations. The museum is open on Thursdays and Sundays, both days being very busy. During May we have recorded 100 visitors as well as several photograph sales. Visitors have come from all parts of NSW and we have had several inquiries from interstate.



**A photographic exhibition of people, places, and events from over 100 years ago featuring.....**

**James Bros. 1876-1891**

**Godfrey Tilbrook 1905-1930**

A collection of more than 120 images representing a significant historical record of both social and family history.



If you are interested in assisting, a roster has been commenced to cover Sundays (2-4 hours). If several members can cover this day, you may only need to do a duty every three months. Please contact Jan, Julie or Sue.

On Thursday, there is a hive of activity with volunteers working on different aspects and tasks. These include research, planning, maintenance of collection and building. Everyone is welcome to join in, even if only for a cuppa and chat. We are always willing to talk.

Check our Facebook page

"MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY".

For information and articles on the museum collection.

Cnr Riddell & Gidley Streets  
Open Thursdays & Sundays  
10.00am - 2.00pm



## VISIT FROM OBERON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On Monday 29th May, 15 Oberon Historical Museum members, visited the museum, coordinated by Pam Dellow (Sec. of Oberon HS) and Lyndall (our Sec). As well there were casual visitors who dropped in as they noted the museum was open and joined the group.

The Museum was open because of the Oberon group, so any extras were bonus visitors. It was very successful, and morning tea was easy. They really enthused about the building, the verandah, all the displays...and a number of men had a particular interest in and were knowledgeable about the old machinery and how to clean old tools etc.

We would like to facilitate further visits for skill-sharing between members of the small museums with particular areas of expertise.

The committee would encourage more of these visits from interested groups in the area. In the past we have had visits from Probus, Rotary, family reunions car clubs and Senior Activity groups to name a few. Please contact the Historical Society for more information.

# THROUGH THE LENS

Through the Lens' – the Photographic Exhibition has been an outstanding success in showcasing the talents of the James Bros and Godfrey Tilbrook. It has created interest from history buffs, family members, and general public about past local events. We are still receiving contributions of Tilbrook and James Bros. photos.



Following the opening of the Exhibition by Nicky Sloane on 28th April and the reopening of the Museum the following morning, the interest and comments from visitors has been extremely positive.



Invitations were extended to all contributors and officials from Cabonne Council and the Orange Museum as well as volunteers who helped with renovations of the verandah.

*A couple of comments from over 90 that have been received to date:*

'Congratulations to the team on such a wonderful event xo'

'Great details and tells a great story of problems farmers had in early 1900s'

'Fabulous Exhibition!'

'Wonderful collection - so interesting. Well done, everyone'



'This photo showing my great grandfather and his brothers is one of my favourites. What a fabulous exhibition – congratulations'

Visitors has come from Bathurst, Canberra, Orange, Cowra, QLD and Northern NSW, we have seen a steady number of patrons visiting the Museum on Thursdays and Sundays.

The canvas backdrop has been reproduced and painted by Mark Edwin Oates. It continues to surprise patrons with the detail and colour depicted as shown in many of Godfrey's studio photographs.

Special thanks must go to Catherine Mackenzie who has scanned over 560 photos and documented biography pages for over 150 photos showcased in the printed and digital sections of the exhibition. The professionalism and details of the research is regularly commented on by visitors. We have had many requests for copies of images and biography pages which are available on written request.

Special mention must be made on the generous donation by **Mid West Signs** of the decals showcasing the photographers' history.

We invite all members and guests to come along and support the museum.

*Contributed by the Exhibition sub-committee*



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Good morning Sue, Yesterday, as you know, I had the great pleasure of visiting the Molong Museum for the first time for a very long time.

The "**Photos of the progress**" on page 3 of your Newsletter (Summer 2022) provide a record of some magnificent progress (BUT it is so much better in reality!!). The photos are great, but they do not fully illustrate the care and attention to detail which has been applied, no, it is more than that!! The work which has been done is transformational – the Museum has always been important and integral to Molong's History and that of the surrounding district. It is in fact, so much more than that – it is a reflection of a vibrant and resilient history which is emblematic of Australia's Rural History as well as the history of the surrounding district. BUT it is even more than that, it is a central point for the history of the region and most of the activities which occurred!!

It is fascinating/fabulous!! – as I was typing this note, the "Superman March" or the "Superman Main Theme" – on the organ!! was playing on the ABC – immensely uplifting!! (it was followed by the Eroica Symphony) - **But** all so totally appropriate to what I wish to portray being at the Museum yesterday!! This music was quite motivational, as was my visit to the Museum – Thank You!!. The role of Historical Societies and Museums is vital to the collection, recording, maintaining and long term preservation of Australia's amazing and diverse history, together with records of the people who were involved and created that history and the memories!! Many thanks!! Best regards

Michael Le Couteur (1st June 2023)



# HIGH TEA at NYRANG HOMESTEAD

As part of the 2023 celebrations of The Banjo Paterson Festival, our society held a fundraiser at Boree Nyrang. It included high tea, together with a tour of the 34 room bluestone homestead and live entertainment.



The day was very hot but the seating under the huge oak tree in the front yard provided welcome shade. The crowd of close to 200 people were also entertained by the very popular poet/storyteller Greg North whose repertoire included his famous "hat" rendition of "The Man from Snowy River", the poet John Hoskins and the excellent musical performance from our locally grown, guitar strumming Jimmy Walker.

By all accounts a very enjoyable afternoon was had by all, with a desire to see it all happen again. A very big thank you goes out, again, to the volunteers who generously gave of their time both in preparation for and on the actual day.



Contributed by Susan Grinpukel

Photos by The Molong Express.

*Thank You*

Our gardens at the Museum are coming along and by spring we should see a show of colour to complement the restored building. Thank you to Bob for supplying the special fertilizer and soil, to Lyn Robertson a 'special thank you' for supplying over 90% of the plants for the gardens and pots. Without Lyn's expertise and her amazing 'green thumbs' we would not have the variety or quality of plants in our gardens. Thank you to all who helped with the gardens over the last six months.

## FAIRBRIDGE REUNION

In March, after a three-year break, the old Fairbridgeans association members were back in Orange and Molong for their bi-annual reunion.



This organization is for the anyone who was part of the Fairbridge Scheme (British Child Migration) who spent their childhood at Fairbridge farm in Molong as well as their families and employees (housemothers, cooks, farm hands etc.)



A busy weekend is always planned that includes the bi-annual dinner on Saturday evening and the Annual General Meeting on Sunday morning. On Saturday many visited the Molong Museum to see the exhibits and to enjoy morning tea on the verandah reviving memories and catching up with old friends.



This year about 40 people enjoyed catching up on the newly completed verandah. They were able to view the many photographs and revive memories. On view was a recent donation of artwork by George Tuck who was known for designing the well-known Fairbridge logo. Jim and Mike Walker provided great music. This being the first time in many years that the brothers have played together.



Among the visitors were Jim Nappier and Margaret McLachlan who were at Fairbridge before World War2. Jim having written a book on his memories of his early life. After leaving Fairbridge Jim worked on a local property and was able to catch up with the family.



We look forward to meeting again at the next Reunion.

Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans.

*-John Lennon*

# JOHN MCGRODER

Contributed by Catherine Mackenzie

1894, Mar (Molong Express Sat 3 Mar 1894 page 8. An Outrage to Good Taste)



Date at top of building is 1888

The outrage is the name of the Mayor on the building front

Image of Town Hall Molong from Molong Museum, copyright applies

Molong Express Sat 3 Mar 1894 page 8

## An Outrage to Good Taste.

TO THE EDITOR: Sir, — I hope now that Alderman McGroder is again occupying the highest position his townsmen can give him, he will, at once, give orders to have that outrage to good taste removed from the front of the Town Hall. How any man with the slightest pretension to culture could allow his name to be placed over a public building I cannot imagine. When first I saw the Molong Town hall, it gave me quite a jar. It seemed to bring what should be an expression of the refinement of the citizens, down to the level of a shop, with a signboard, and this has not the redeeming feature of being useful. I hope Mr. McGroder will not think that I have any objections to him or his name. Personally, Mr. McGroder is unknown to me. I should express the same opinions whatever name might be flaunted in the way this name is. It is an infringement of good taste and it ought to be removed. —Yours etc.,

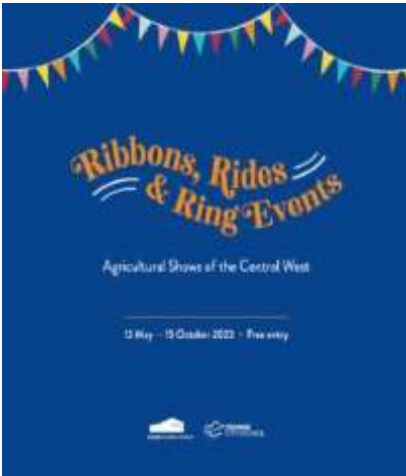
1894: May (Molong Express Sat 5 May 1894 page 5, Items of Interest)

Though nothing was said at the Council meeting on Tuesday evening about Alderman McGroder's resignation as Mayor and alderman, general regret was felt by the councillors that matters should have arisen to make the step unavoidable.

Advertisement in Molong Express Sat 12 May 1894 page 4 for Municipality of Molong Extraordinary Vacancies. Notes only – Meeting to be held 23<sup>rd</sup> May two aldermen resigned Alderman John McGroder and Alderman Alexander Greig Beveridge. Notice placed by George Packham, Mayor and Returning Officer dated 8 May 1894.



# Ribbons, Rides & Ring Events: Agricultural Shows of the Central West (13 May – 15 October 2023)



Did you know that the Showman's Guild was formed in Orange in 1909? Or that it was a local orchardist and station master who put forward the idea for the Royal Agricultural Society's District Exhibits in 1897?

Orange and the Central West have a long tradition of agricultural shows. From dressage to dog trials, sponge cakes to sideshows, and prize-winning poultry to pickles and preserves, this hands-on exhibition has something for everyone.

This exhibit covers all shows in the Cabonne and Blayney areas as well as Orange. It has several hands-on areas where children can play and learn about the Show scene, while you are able to view over 50 photos of Show history. There are several items ( Merry-go-round horse, laughing clown, and more) to stir your memory.

Come on down – it's time for the Show!



## THOMAS HOWARTH FAMILY REUNION Saturday 26th August 2023

Thomas Howarth had a large family and his 12 children have left many descendants; many still live in the Orange/Molong area.

Tom and Martha (Post) married 1935 at Campbelltown and their children were

John born 1835	married	Jane Goode
Thomas 1837	m	Martha Goodlock (1) Harriett Harvey (2)
James 1839	m	Joanna Osbourne
Annie 1842	m	Joseph Kerr
Edward 1844	m	Christine Gately
Charles 1844	m	Mary Anne McGeorge
Robert 1846	m	Elizabeth Lee McGeorge
Alfred 1849	m	Caroline Cole
George 1851	m	Eliza Hallett
Mary Jane 1853	m	Walter Milne
Delilah 1855	m	Bill Goodlock (1) Tom Bartimote (2)
Harriett 1858	m	Ambrose Bartimote

Thomas died in 1865  
and Martha married Abbott  
Osbourne (brother of Joanna)

Martha passed away in 1905





# GEORGE TUCK

At the Fairbridge Reunion in March 2023, a painting by George Tuck was donated to the museum. The painting had been given to the Old Fairbridgeans Association by Georges wife and family.



George Tuck was born in Hounslow in 1930, and along with his brother was one of the first party of boys to be sent from England to Northcote, arriving in Australia in July 1937.

He was transferred to Fairbridge Farm School in 1942, when no more 'boys of the Empire' could reach Australia because of the war in the Pacific. While at Fairbridge he showed an early aptitude for art. A picture

of a horse and plough was used for the Fairbridge Magazine, and later adorned the side of the schools bus, and he also won first prize in a local art competition.



He worked as a farm hand until joining the navy in 1949 as a Naval Airman, trained as a meteorologist, serving in Korea. While at sea George studied for his HSC. He gained entry to Sydney University in 1958. Upon graduation he worked as a Planning Assistant at the Department of Main Roads. He moved his career to teach at the Kings School Parramatta before moving to Canberra National University and Canberra College of Education as a lecturer. He completed his Masters Degree through Sydney University and a Dip Ed through New England University.

In 1974 he transferred to Goulburn Teachers College as Head of Environmental Science. In 1983 he moved to Charles Sturt University as Principal Lecturer in Agriculture - and Acting Dean a position held until retirement in 1990....then to art.

His work comprises over 100 titles, including Australian landscapes and coastal scenes, rural Australian life and portraiture.



George passed away on 3rd April, 2021 leaving his wife, Isobel (married in 1956) and two daughters, Meredith and Rosemary. Meredith was a school principal in Wagga Wagga, married Alan Holden, a rice farmer from Deniliquin and Rosemary a concert pianist married Roy Shuttleworth, a psychiatrist in London. Meredith has two grand children, Thomas, and Annabelle.

Information provide by his wife, Isobel and daughter Rosemary  
Photographs from the Fairbridge Photo Collection.

## THE HISTORIAN

An article originally published in Volume 5 Issue 29 published February 1997(second last Historian). Written by David Rutherford.

### Dr MICHELL

Dr Roden Tregarthen Michell was born in Calcutta, India, c 1868. He was educated at Marlborough College in England and at Edinburgh University. He came to Australia c1900.

It was probably 1911 when he came to Molong, buying the practice of Dr Geoffrey Lees. The latter was in partnership with Dr Arthur Colvin. Dr Michell lived on the corner of Bank and Edward Streets in Molong. In 1912 he purchased from Dr Colvin the house on the corner of Riddell and Gidley Streets, the present day Historical Museum.



Dr Michell was responsible for Manildra and Cumnock which he visited once each week until Dr Metcalfe took Dr Colvin's place. Dr Metcalfe lived in Manildra until he enlisted. Unfortunately, both he and his twin brother, also a doctor, were killed. Dr Michell was rejected for war service even though he had been in one of the Zulu Wars in South Africa with General Roberts.

In Molong, Roden Michell was president of most of the male committees, and his wife was president of the Red Cross for some years. He was very musical and used to help in comparing and singing in the concerts which were a regular part of the town's activities, especially during war time, for the charities.

He was President of the Western Medical Association during the war years as well as servicing Manildra and Cumnock. At this time Dr Eugene Neumann was also in Manildra and had been in Cumnock before 1913 when he moved to Manildra.

In the early days of his practice in Molong, Dr Michell got around on a motor-cycle. He only used it on long distances or in dire emergencies. About 1911 he bought his first car, a Brush with one cylinder. It was very noisy, and had two seats. When Dr Colvin went to Orange the Michell family acquired his Renault. This was a lucky acquisition, as the car had a windscreen! But they still got covered in as much dust as they had been in the Brush.

Towards the end of 1918 the Michell family moved to Willoughby in Sydney where Dr Michell practised for 13 years before retiring. He was well known in Sydney as he made a special study of Silicosis and was regarded as an authority on the disease.

Between 1918 and 1939 he had four coronaries and died on the fifth at the age of 71 years. He was survived by his wife, one daughter, Miss Helen Michell (later Mrs H. Jarvie), and two sons, John Michell of Yass and Robert Michell of Canberra.

# MOLONG IN THE 70's

## A GLANCE THROUGH OLD FILES

*A selection of articles found in a 1903 Express that relates to  
Molong in 1877.*

From Molong Express Saturday 14th March 1903

Mr Geo Packham notifies that his well-known "Killenbutta" sawmills and plant is for absolute sale.

At the conclusion of business at the Police Court this week the editor of the EXPRESS called the Bench's attention to the state of the floor band suggested the laying down of a little coir matting. His worship, the P.M promised attention to the matter.

July 13, 1877- Rev. H Martin took up his duties as incumbent of St John's on Sunday last.

The team bringing the first load of machinery for Mr Black's flour mill broke down on the Orange Road during the week.

July 20, 1877-A shepherd from "Eurimbla Station", who had been having a lengthy spree in Molong, died at Jew's Creek whilst on his homeward journey.

The first meeting in the bankrupt estate of the Rev. A.W. Gardiner was held at Orange on Monday last when some highly interesting evidence was elicited.

July 27, 1877-Mr Haslam has retired from the position of Postmaster of Molong and in future Mr J.P. Gallagher will discharge the duties both of Post and Telegraph Master.

### Molong Express Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 1903

The Molong Public School has now an average daily attendance of 100 pupils.

It is quite possible that outside of the circle of those resident in the vicinity of Yullundry, very little is known of the place beyond its name. It is, however, one of richest wheat centres to be found in the district of Molong. On the banks of Yullundry, Loombah and other creeks there are fully 40 families settled on good farms. A school is consequently needed there

Nov 16- Twice yesterday the teachers and pupils at the Molong Public School had to cease work owing to dust storms. For all practical purposes the pupils might as well be taught in a paddock.

A disastrous fire occurred at Mr Bennett's farm on Tuesday last, when the substantial homestead, together with all its contents, were destroyed. Mr W.H. Bennett left the place at 2.30p.m. at which hour there was no signs of the impending conflagration. The loss is a serious one to Mr S Bennett, since nothing whatever was saved.

Nov 16-At a Ploughing Match at Buckinbah last week, Joseph Black was awarded first prize, William Black second and John Miller third. Messrs. John Leary (Burrawong) and W Matthews (Buckinbah) were the judges.



# BOOKS FOR SALE

(Reviewed February 2023)

## AILEEN ROBERSON

FAMILY'S OF MOLONG	\$30.00
A HISTORY OF THE MOLONG CATHOLIC CHURCH	\$20.00
ALLAN TOM Picture Show Man	\$20.00
PADDY McARDLE	\$20.00
THE SHEEN TEAM (Max &Nita)	\$15.00
VILLA ASH	\$5.00

## ROBERT ELLIS

SESQUICENTIENNAL HISTORY OF MOLONG SHOW	\$35.00
History of WIRADJURI Aborigines	\$10.00
PIPER & YURANIGH	\$25.00
HOW THE WEST WAS WON	\$25.00
HISTORY OF THE SHEEPDOG	\$25.00

## DAVID RUTHERFORD

LIFE & TIMES OF JOHN SMITH	\$30.00
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## KATE GADSBY

CONVICTS, CAPITALISTS & CORRUPTION	\$40.00
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## HELEN HAYNES

MOLONG RSL PORTRAIT GUIDE	\$25.00
ORANGE 1901	\$10.00

## VAL McKENZIE

MOLONG SHEEP DOG WORKERS	\$25.00
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## DIANNE WOOLBANK

WOOLBANK MEMOIRS	\$10.00
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## RON SABIN & JO BAILEY

THE LONG WAY HOME (Fairbridge story)	\$20.00
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## NOEL CANTRILL

BORENORE CENTENARY 1877 TO 1977	\$15.00
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## ORANGE ROTARY CLUB

BANJO PATERSON & NARRAMBLA	\$3.00
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## CLEMENT SEMMLER

A.B. PATERSON	\$15.00
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PLEASE ADD POSTAGE \$ 10 TO \$15 depending on book size.

## RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

Enquires to the Society should be written,  
then posted or emailed to :-

PO BOX 119 MOLONG NSW 2866

**molonghs@gmail.com**

Please include :-

Your Name, contact number

Reason for enquiry

(family research, writing book etc)

Relevant information